

TRANSMISSION OF MPEG VIDEO USING VARIABLE RATE MODULATION

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A system and method for transmitting encoded video signals using a variable rate modulation scheme. In one embodiment a transmitter is provided comprising a system for partitioning the video into a plurality of streams; a system for determining a priority for each of a plurality of streams of encoded video data; and a system for assigning a different modulation rate to each stream of encoded video data based on the determined priority. Specifically, a lower, more robust, modulation is preferably used for higher priority streams, and a higher, less robust, modulation is preferably used for lower priority streams in such a way that an average rate is maintained.